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Theater Performance Analysis

Last Thursday, April 25th, 2013, I attended "No Time for Sergeants" by Ira Levin, which was performed by Hale Center Theater. This performance is part of their spring 2013 play schedule. It was held at Hale Center Theater in West Valley City. The play is set around 1945 with a bumbling drafty by the name of Will Stockdale, even though he is very dedicated to his position he is accident prone, which causes dysfunction although out the base.

The interesting part of how the play was presented is that the stage is in the center surrounded by the audience. I have never experienced a performance like this before. There were no blind spots on the stage; the cast included the audience in every scene. It fully immersed you into the story, making you a part of it. It was very engaging for the audience.

The first character that is up for interpretation is Will Stockdale; he is the accident prone star of this performance. He is shaped like a big boulder moves almost primitively, his shoulders are bunched together, and his arm almost swing as he walks, adding to his innocence, making him unknowing of the doom that he is bringing to the rest of his base. He has a high energy; he will rush to the scene, with a boisterous attitude. He's loud, and doesn't care who knows what he is thinking, while he has a high energy, his timing is slow. He doesn't think very fast and his words come out very slow. He sometimes seems to struggle with talking so he says the words very slow, or it may be because he is trying to get a point across that is difficult for him to

fathom. This also adds to the innocent nature of the character because it makes him seem very childlike.

Wherever Will is he takes up a lot of space, he's the elephant in the room literally. None of the other men even come close to his stature, he's a hulk. But like Ferdinand the bull, he looks scary and threatening but once you get to know him and his attitude he is a sweet gentle giant. The timbre of his voice is very strong and powerful, it fills the room whenever he talks. He gets his point across the room whether he wants it to or not.

His rhythm is very different though, while the other members of the army are all syncopated, they all follow orders, very submissive, do not want to make waves. Will's is at a different tone, while the other men are acoustic guitars played very softly so that they blend into the background noise. Will is a drum beat hardly echoing throughout the camp. He stands out in every way possible. All unintentionally, he just stands out for who he is, and how he is.

Will Stockdale is a very lovable character; he does everything in his own rhythm, making his own music, dancing to the beat of his own drum. All of us envy this character because we all want to be as free as he is. He shows me being yourself might not always get you the most friends but it will get you the best friends, and that by being yourself you are letting your soul free and showing the world what you are capable of as a human being.

The second character goes by the name of Ben Whitley, who is Will Stockdale's constant companion through the army, whether he wants to be or not. Wanting to go into the Infantry since the day he was drafted, like all of his brothers because that is where the real fighting is at, he is very disappointed when he is assigned to the Air Force. This line that he has

been following formed by his brothers previous is cut, and he has to make his own way in life, and in so many ways this helps him grow to become the man that he has always been.

His shape is very small, he is wiry, almost anorexic skinny and when he turns on his side he almost disappears. Even if he wanted to he doesn't take up much space, and by the large nature of Will it makes Ben even smaller than he already was. He moves like a squirrel, rapidly, moving quickly from space to space trying not to be spotted by the enemy, because he knows that he would have no chance against them. This adds to his bizarre behavior, he seems untrusting of everything, not wanting to take any chances. He has his comfort zones which were destroyed the second he befriended Will.

He has a very spry energy; he jumps at the slightest of noises, always wary that anything could potentially kill him. The timbre of his voice is very high, when he talks his voice will sometimes crack, and almost always will it crack if he's scared. This to me shows how he is young at heart and was not ready for the war. He is still a child who is being forced to grow up in an instant, the second he was drafted into the war. He's young and was not ready for what he was forced to deal with. But he tries to the best of his ability and that what makes him grow.

We're all still children in an ever changing world; it's when we grow up that we realize just how naive we once were. But growing up doesn't happen in one night, its gradual, you never realize that you have grown up until to look at the decisions that you have made and realize that those decisions have molded you and made you who you are today. Ben was forced to grow up in an instant, sometimes we are too, but we will always be children wanting to learn more about the world that surrounds us.

This was a very powerful play; it moves you in ways that you would not think were possible. It makes you understand aspects of your life that you were confused by before. We need to stop letting people constant judging prevent us from being who we are, and every decision that we make is constantly molding us into the person that we will become, even far into adulthood. There things that I did not expect to get out of a silly comedy play, but there life lessons that we all need to learn, that's what makes this play truly powerful.